Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSC-01 CPR-01 /051 W
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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJ: IMPENDING CHANGES IN GOB CABINET

1. AT A LUNCHEON AUGUST 26 WITH POL/ECOM COUNSELOR, JAVIER ARCE, ONE OF PRESIDENT BANZER'S CLOSEST AIDES, SAID THERE WOULD BE MAJOR CHANGES IN CABINET AROUND END FIRST WEEK SEPTEMBER. ARCE SAID FINANCE MINISTER CARLOS CALVO WOULD BE REPLACED BY SUB-SECRETARY DAVID BLANCO. HE IMPLIED MINISTER OF PLANNING LECHIN WOULD BE REPLACED. ARCE DID NOT MENTION NOR DID POL/ECOM COUNSELOR ASK, WHETHER INTERIOR MINISTER PEREDA WOULD BE CHANGED, AS HAS LONG BEEN RUMORED. ARCE SAID THAT CABINET CHANGES DO NOT REPRESENT THREAT TO GOVERNMENT STABILITY AND THAT PRESIDENT BANZER REMAINS IN COMPLETE CONTROL.

2. CABINET CHANGES HAVE BEEN IN THE WIND FOR MANY MONTHS
AND THE INTERNAL ARGUMENT OVER THE CHANGES APPEARS TO HAVE
HEATED UP IN RECENT WEEKS, REFLECTED IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY
MAJOR SPEECH BY PRESIDENT BANZER DURING THE SIXTH ANNIVERSARY
OF HIS TAKEOVER (AUGUST 19-21). BANZER SPENT THE PERIOD
INAUGURATING MINOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AROUND THE
COUNTRY. ASSUMING BANZER VISITS US AS PLANNED FOR PANAMA CANAL
CEREMONY, WE WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED TO SEE CABINET CHANGES
POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER HIS RETURN. SO FAR, ALL INDICATIONS
ARE THAT WHEN HE DECIDES TO MAKE THE CHANGES, HE'LL BE
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ABLE TO DO IT IN THE SAME MANNER AS WHEN HE CHANGED THE ENTIRE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND IN JANUARY 1976 -- WITHOUT A RIPPLE.
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	Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009
INN					

Message Attributes

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